

KANSAS AGITATOR.

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FRIENDS of reform, send us items—let us know what you are doing.

THE AGITATOR will be improved each week. We'll soon have on a good "head of steam" and propose to make things red-hot.

THE Farmers' Alliance of the Sixth congressional district held a convention at Hill City, on the 6th inst., and nominated Wm. Baker, of Lincoln, to succeed Congressman Turner. Mr. Baker, in a speech, vigorously denounced Senator Ingalls.

THE senate has passed a bill to aid prohibition states in the enforcement of their laws, but as yet, the house has done nothing, and there is little hope that anything more will be done. The whisky men have the money, and money controls congress.

IF the farmers won't help themselves, they need not expect any one else to do it for them. The railroad companies, bankers, monopolies and liquor men are always on the alert, and they secure legislation in their own interests. They control the two old parties, and the only way for the reform elements to accomplish anything is to unite and pull together. Put up candidates for office, and stand by them—elect them.

OVER fifty Nebraska newspapers have expressed their willingness to sell out to the whisky crowd and aid in defeating the prohibitory amendment. The New York Voice publishes letters from many of these editors, in which they state the price (or prices) at which they will sell—prostitute—their columns and fling their manhood to the dogs. Among these papers are the Omaha Bee and Republican. Under such a condition of affairs, is it any wonder that this country is under the control of the liquor power, of monopolies, trusts, kings and combines?

As soon as you read this paper, hand it to some neighbor, have him read it and hand it to another neighbor, and keep the ball a-rolling.

Get up a Club and catch a Prize.

THE politicians are terribly exercised over the secrecy of farm organizations. Nothing political must be done in secret. We are inclined to agree with that. In a government where every man (and why not every woman?) is a ruler, we think every action of a political character should be taken boldly and in open day, but the politicians are in very poor shape to read lessons to the farmers on secrecy in politics. No class of people on earth do more of dirty secret political work than these same politicians. Their caucuses are secret, their plans are laid in secret—their whole miserable dirty work is done in secret, in the presence of none but their kind, and beer bottles and decanters. And yet these disreputable humbugs abuse the farmers if the latter dare hold a private consultation. — *Progressive Farmer.*

THE Illinois Prohibitionists are the first in the field in that state. They held a state convention at Bloomington, a few days ago, and nominated a state ticket. Their platform, besides its prohibition plank, contains the following demands: Equal suffrage; service pensions for the soldiers; limited ownership of lands; ballot reform; the control of railroads and telegraph lines by the government; reduction of the tariff; that all money shall be issued by the government directly to the people; free and unlimited coinage of silver; election of U. S. senators by the people; suppression of trusts; reduction of interest; enforcement of a Sabbath law.

CONGRESS is still monkeying with silver bills and pension bills, but there seems to be little show for any relief yet. They may possibly patch up some kind of a silver bill and some kind of a pension bill in order to satisfy the "grumblers," but, depend upon it, neither one will be of real benefit to the people. Wall street don't want measures of relief for the people, and Wall street runs the country. Mark what we say: Congress will not do anything to relieve the people's distress.

IF Kansas wants to know what effect the saloon traffic has on business, come to Kansas City. It takes all the money derived from this source to pay policemen and care for the criminals, made so by it. Then, the character of officers it elects is one of the most expensive luxuries a state ever shouldered. Our records will bear investigation in proof of just how it effects business, and we invite such investigation. — *K. C. Progress.*

THE Waverly G. A. R., at a meeting last week, passed ringing resolutions denouncing the action of congress in appropriating \$300,000 to build a monument to Gen. Grant, and against granting large pensions to the widows of officers while the widows of privates have to get along with a pittance.

THE Franklin county F. M. B. A. favor the nomination of independent state, congressional and county tickets this fall, regardless of what the old parties say.

THE Leavenworth Times wants "Age-of-Consent" Kelly, of McPherson, to go to congress. Bah!

Polk's Address.

L. L. Polk, national president of the Farmers' Alliance, in an address before the U. S. committee on agriculture, cooks the "diversified farming" and "over-production" theories, and proves conclusively that contraction of the currency is the cause of agricultural depression. The following is a brief synopsis:

"In 1850, the farmers of the United States owned of the total wealth of the country 70 per cent.; in 1860, one-half; in 1880, one-third; in 1889, less than one-fourth. The average yearly increase of the value of farms, from the year 1850 to the year 1860, was 10½ per cent. From that period to the present, farm land has fallen, until the increase is naught; or, in other words, the opening of new farms and improvement of old will not any more than counter-balance depreciation. While land was thus falling, the aggregate wealth of the country, from 1870 to 1880, increased 45 per cent. From 1860 to 1870, the average price of wheat was \$1.99 per bushel. Today, wheat is 89 cents; so the wheat farmer pays of labor product two and one-third times as much as he did in the years of 1860 and 1870. The corn farmer to-day pays of labor product two and one-half times more for one dollar than in the years of 1860 and 1870. The cotton farmer, in the product of his labor, pays four times as much for a dollar as he did in 1860 and '70. If a farmer in 1870 had given a mortgage for one thousand dollars, he could then have paid it with 1,052 bushels of corn. It will now take nearly three thousand bushels. In 1881, the wheat crop of the United States equalled 9½ bushels per capita, and brought \$1.15 per bushel. The wheat crop of 1889 equalled 7½ bushels per capita, and the average price is 79 cents."

The above statements show conclusively that over-production is not the cause of agricultural depression, and these statements cannot be set aside, for Mr. Polk gives the statistics. Mr. Polk pays attention to the theory of diversified farming, and shows that wherever diversified farming is practiced, the agriculturist is as hopelessly involved as elsewhere, and that, if any difference, the farmers of New England and the middle states are in a worse condition than those of the western and southern states.

Mr. Polk shows that farmers pay an undue share of taxes by the following:

"In 1850, when the farmers owned 70 per cent. of the wealth of the country, they paid 85 per cent. of the taxes. In 1860, farmers owned half of the wealth of the country, and paid 87 per cent. taxes. In 1880, they owned one-fourth of the wealth of the country, and paid 80 per cent. of the taxes. Farm values had dropped, from 1860 to 1880, nearly 100 per cent., but the per cent. of taxes paid was scarcely diminished. The above does not include the indirect tax levied by the general government through the tariff and internal revenue systems, which must swell the burden borne by farmers to vast proportions."

Mr. Polk still further shows that the quantity of farm products has kept pace with increased acreage and population, and that the charges of indolence and inattention to business, and over-production, are both alike colossal lies manufactured by the boodle politician, and circulated by a corrupt and lying press, in the interest of a monied plutocracy whose aim is to reduce the farmers to serfdom.

This communication would not be complete without giving the cause, and suggesting a remedy. Mr. Polk says:

"We protest it is not God's fault. We protest it is not the farmers' fault. We believe, and so charge, that it is the fault of the financial system of our government—a system that has placed on agriculture an undue, unjust and intolerable proportion of the burdens of taxation, while it makes that great interest the helpless victim of the rapacious greed and tyrannical power of gold. * * * Our currency has been contracted to a volume totally inadequate to the necessities of the people and the demands of trade, with the natural and inevitable result—high-priced money and low-priced products."

Gold and silver on equal terms. Issue direct to the people currency at low rates of interest, to meet legitimate demands, such issue to have legal standing, are some of Mr. Polk's suggestions. J. M. ALEXANDER.

JUDGE PEFFER, of the Kansas Farmer, has been giving some facts and figures relative to the indebtedness of Kansas. The Republican papers have taken him to task, stating that he has not given the correct figures. Last week, the Farmer contained a well-written article on "The Great Issue," in which the Judge again gives the figures relative to the indebtedness of the country. Among other things, he says:

"Some of the states of this Union, if put up at auction in farms and city lots, would not sell for enough to pay the debts of the people. That is a startling proposition, but look a moment. Take our own beloved Kansas: Railroad indebtedness, \$487,600,000; municipal indebtedness, \$40,000,000; farm indebtedness, \$60,000,000; real estate indebtedness, \$30,000,000—total, \$617,000,000. Add to this \$20,000,000 private debts not of record, and we have \$637,000,000, while the total property valuation of the state, as shown by the latest figures at hand (1888), was but \$353,000,000. The actual value is more, we understand well enough; that is to say, the value as it was estimated when property had a commercial value."

Thus it will be seen that the indebtedness is more than the valuation. Judge Peffer knows what he is talking about. He is a very careful man, and his statements can be relied upon.

WHACK it to 'em! We must rid the world of the poor trash that are obstructing their presence upon our most frequented thoroughfares, and are forever keeping up their eternal cry for more wages. Why, they are as impudent as ever the blacks were at the close of the war when they expected a mile and forty acres of land free. If I had the power I would have the d— stock strangled as fast as they came into the world.—Millionaire Dugan.

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